

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 303854

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM PRETORIA DTD 21 DEC 1977 QTE

S E C R E T PRETORIA 6986

NODIS

PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF

SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM

REF: STATE 302210

1. DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT RELAY OF INSTRUCTIONS ENABLED
ME TO CATCH BRAND FOURIE AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT LAST
NIGHT AS HE TRANSITTED ON HIS WAY TO LONDON. UNDER
SECRETARY VAN DALSEN ALSO PRESENT.

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2. IN MAKING THE PRESENTATION TO FOURIE, I USED THESE
SPEAKING POINTS (WITHOUT GIVING HIM COPY):
--DURING YOUR MEETING IN THE STATE DEPT ON
NOV. 10 YOU REFERRED TO UNCERTAINTIES IN TWO AREAS WHICH
NEEDED TO BE CLEARED UP TO DETERMINE WHETHER A BASIS
EXISTED FOR REACHING AN UNDERSTANDING ON NUCLEAR ISSUES.
THESE WERE:

..WHETHER WE FORESEE FUTURE US NUCLEAR
COOPERATION LIMITED TO THE SUPPLY OF LEU FOR KOEBERG
OR ALSO INTEND TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING FUEL FOR THE SAFARI
RESEARCH REACTOR;

..HOW OUR PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL INTERIM
SAFEGUARDS AT VALINDABA CAN BE RECONCILED WITH SAG
CONCERNS TO PROTECT ITS SECRET ENRICHMENT PROCESS.

--SINCE HIS VISIT, WE HAVE PURSUED DETAILED
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS AS TO HOW WE CAN ADDRESS THESE TWO
CONCERNS IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH OUR NUCLEAR
POLICIES. WE WOULD NOW LIKE TO PRESENT OUR POSITIONS
ON THESE MATTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

--OUR PROPOSALS ARE AVAILABLE AS TECHNICAL
PAPERS WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE
SAG IN A MANNER WHICH PERMITS A CAREFUL JOINT REVIEW
TO ASSURE FULL UNDERSTANDING OF PRECISELY WHAT WE
PROPOSE. MOREOVER, IN SOME RESPECTS WE HAVE HAD TO MAKE
ASSUMPTIONS BASED ON PARTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT SAFARI
AND VALINDABA THAT NEED TO BE CLARIFIED BEFORE THE
PAPERS ARE CONSIDERED FINAL.

--WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO BRING A SMALL TECHNICAL
TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SET FOURTH OUR
PROPOSALS TO APPROPRIATE SAG TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL
OFFICIALS. THE TEAM WOULD BE COMPOSED OF A STATE DEPT
OFFICER CONCERNED WITH NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY, A
SAFEGUARDS EXPERT FROM ACDA AND A REACTOR FUEL EXPERT
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FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

--THE TEAM WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BEGIN
DISCUSSIONS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3. WE SUGGEST THAT
ACTIVITIES MIGHT BEGIN WITH INITIAL CALLS ON YOU
AND DR. ROUX, THEN PROCEED TO TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS
WITH PERSONNEL OF SAFARI AND VALINDABA. THE VISIT
MIGHT CONCLUDE WITH A FINAL PRESENTATION OF OUR
TECHNICAL PROPOSALS AT WHATEVER POLITICAL LEVEL THE
SAG DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

--WE HOPE THAT THE US PROPOSALS ELABORATED AND
MODIFIED AS NECESSARY DURING THE TEAM VISIT WOULD
ENABLE THE SAG TO REACH AN EARLY DECISION ON ACCESSION
TO THE NPT AND ON ACCEPTANCE OF SAFEGUARDS AT VALINDABA.

--WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST
TO AVOID ALL PUBLICITY OVER THE FACT OF A VISIT BY THIS
TECHNICAL GROUP. WE ASSUME THE SAG SHARES THIS VIEW.

3. IN RESPONSE FOURIE RAISED THREE ISSUES. FIRST,
HE SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON HE HAD NOT
LIMITED HIMSELF TO THE FUEL AND SAFEGUARDS QUESTIONS.
THE SAG IS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSIONS COVERING THE BROAD
RANGE OF NUCLEAR PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN PM VORSTER'S

OCTOBER 12 LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER. HE REGRETTED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE HIS NOTES OF THE NYE-MOOSE MEETING, BUT HE WAS SURE THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE THAT AMBASSADOR SMITH COME TO SOUTH AFRICA TO GO OVER THE SPECTRUM OF PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION. SINCE ALL THESE QUESTIONS ARE INTER-RELATED, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SAG TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON ONE ISSUE WITHOUT KNOWING THE US RESPONSE ON THE OTHERS. THE SAG ATTITUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, ON NPT AND SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE AMERICAN REACTION TO MORE THAN FUEL FOR SAFARI I AND KOEBERG. THE SECOND POINT HE MADE WAS TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE VISIT OF THE TECHNICAL TEAM WAS IN LIEU OF A SMITH VISIT. THE THIRD ISSUE WAS THE DIFFICULTY FOR HIM TO COORDINATE
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AN ANSWER AND ASSEMBLE THE KEY PEOPLE WHEN ALMOST ALL ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ON VACATION. WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON, HE HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD WAIT UNTIL NEXT MONTH AFTER THE GOVERNMENT REASSEMBLED ON JANUARY 9. HE PLANNED TO BE IN PRETORIA ON JANUARY 9-11.

4. I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO MOVING EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH THE TALKS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND WOULD SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE BY JANUARY 3. HE ASKED VAN DALSEN TO CHECK WITH DR. ROUX ON HIS AVAILABILITY AND THAT OF HIS PRINCIPAL TECHNICIANS. UNTIL THIS WAS DONE AND HE HAD A CHANCE TO TOUCH BASE WITH HIS SUPERIORS, HE COULD NOT GIVE ME AN ANSWER. HE WOULD BE BACK FROM LONDON ON FRIDAY, DEC. 23, AND WOULD LET ME KNOW AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE.

5. TO MEET HIS POINT ABOUT THE SAG'S DESIRE FOR "BROAD" DISCUSSIONS OF NUCLEAR MATTERS, I EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THESE TECHNICAL TALKS AS AN ESSENTIAL PRIOR STEP TO MEANINGFUL BROADER DISCUSSIONS. ON A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SMITH, I SAID WE DO NOT RULE THIS OUT IF, AFTER THE TECHNICAL EXCHANGES, A SPECIFIC AND MUTUALLY AGREED BASIS EXISTS FOR FAIRLY FINAL TALKS TO RESOLVE OUR NUCLEAR PROBLEMS. HE DID NOT PRESS HIS VIEWS ON THIS ASPECT.

6. WE LEFT IT THAT HE WOULD RESPOND TO OUR DESIRE TO HOLD TECHNICAL TALKS STARTING ON JANUARY 3 AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS RETURN FROM LONDON. WE MAY WELL NOT GET A REPLY UNTIL NEXT WEEK. I SUGGEST THAT OUR TEAM MAKE TENTATIVE PLANS TO ARRIVE HERE ON JANUARY 2. I WILL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH VAN DALSEN TO SEE WHEN
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A RESPONSE MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING. I AM NOT SURE TO WHAT
EXTENT I DEFLECTED THE DESIRE FOR "BROADER" TALKS.
MINDFUL OF THE OCTOBER 12 LETTER FOURIE IN THIS INITIAL
CONVERSATION WANTED TO KEEP ALL OPTIONS OPEN. WE SHALL
GET A BETTER READING ON SAG INTENTIONS FROM THE NATURE OF THE
RESPONSE TO HOLDING TECHNICAL TALKS ON JANUARY 3. BOWDLER
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